

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

FRB-03 PA-01 PRS-01 IO-10 /111 W

----- 033073

P R 031452Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0801

INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 2056

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: ENRG, NG

SUBJECT: INDICATIONS OF OIL IN NIGER

1. CONFIRMING RUMORS WHICH HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING NIN NIAMEY FOR SEVERAL DAYS, PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED DISCOVERY OF OIL (LOCALISE DE PETROLE) IN NIGER. PRESIDENT MADE ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH GREETED WITH WARM APPLAUSE TO OPENING SESSION OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF NIGER AMBASSADORS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL AND ENTIRE CABINET. KOUNTCHE MADE POINT TO MENTION EFFORTS, CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY OF TEXACO AND EXXON AND ACKNOWLEDGED COUNTRY'S DEBT TO THE TWO COMPANIES.

2. LOCAL TEXACO REP, BARRINGER (AMCIT), INFORMED EMBASSY TAHT
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COMPANY'S THIRD WELL LOCATED HALFWAY BETWEEN BILMA

AND NGUIGMI AND SLIGHTLY SOUTHWEST OF AGADEM IN THE COUNTRY'S DESERT HAD AT 5000 FT LEVEL YIELDED PROMISING EVIDENCE OF HYDROCARBONS ON MAY 29. ON MAY 31, VICE PRESIDENT SANI SIDO, ARMED FORCES CHEIF OF STAFF ALI SAIBOU, AND MINES DIRECTOR DIALLO OUMARA ACCOMPANIED BARRINGER TO SITE WHERE THEY WERE ABLE TO SEE THE HOPEFUL OILY MUD. BARRINGER CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE INDICATIONS WERE GOOD, IT WAS PREMATURE TO QUOTE DECLARE AN OIL STRIKE UNQUOTE. DRILLING AT THE SITE WILL CONTINUE TO THE CONTRACTUAL 12,000 FEET AFTER WHICH FURTHER SAMPLINGS WILL BE MADE AT THE 5000 FOOT LEVEL. MEANWHILE, TEXACO CONTINUES WITH ITS FOURTH WELL IN MORE NORTHERLY SEGUIDINE CONCESSION.

3. FEARING POSSIBLE SOURING OF COMPANY--GON RELATIONS IN EVENT LITTLE FURTHER COMES OF THIS WELL OR THAT EVENTUAL DISCOVERIES WILL BE TOO SMALL TO EXPLOIT COMMERCIALLY, BARRINGER IS DOWNPLAYING NEWS FROM DESERT. PRESIDENT HAS APPARENTLY TAKEN RISKY OPPOSITE COURSE GIVING RISE TO EXPECTATIONS WHICH MAY BE DIFFICULT TO MEET. LOCAL RADIO ALREADY EMPHASIZING DISCOVERY OF IMPORTANT PETROLEUM FIELD.HECK

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Message Attributes

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